



Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures

12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia, California 91006-5872
<http://acwm.lacounty.gov>



Richard K. Iizuka
Chief Deputy

DATE: March 6, 2014

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman, Fourth District
Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: **MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY DETECTED IN SOUTH PARK**

It was confirmed today that one unmated female specimen of Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly), a major agricultural pest, was detected in the South Park neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. As a result, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is implementing established procedures that include delimitation trapping to determine the existence and size of any possible infestation. If a second specimen is detected within three miles from this find, CDFA will commence an eradication effort. No aerial bait treatments are planned.

Medfly is one of the world's most destructive insect pests, damaging hundreds of different fruits and vegetables. Females pierce the skin of produce and deposit eggs that hatch into maggots, which tunnel and feed on the flesh, rendering the produce unfit for consumption. The ongoing release of sterile male Medflies is intended to disrupt the reproductive cycle and protect against Medfly infestations. This is the first detection of a wild Medfly specimen in the County since November 2011.

I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

KF:kp

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Georgia Mattera, Manager, Public Safety Cluster
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer
Board Deputies